

FOR DANI WEEK

Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Abdullah Nsour reiterated that the government is serious about its intentions to extend additional customs and fees exemption to industrialists. The purpose of all this, he said, is to encourage the industrial sector and industrial investments.

Industrialists welcomed Dr Nsour's comments, but reminded him that similar promises are made every time the ministry has a new minister or a new government comes to power. In the end, they said, the opposite happens: "The first thing the government thinks of when it looks for additional income is to increase fees, hike taxes and customs and introduce new taxes on the industrial sector."

Local papers are again raising the issue of the "missing eggs" from the local market. One writer reminisced about the good old days when housewives did wonders with a couple of eggs, adding them to "foul mudamas" or tomato and minced meat casseroles thus creating a wholesome meal for the entire family. The writer reminded "officials" that poor people, who no longer can afford meat or chicken, depend heavily on eggs as a staple food.

Reasons for the paucity in eggs is said to be the closure of many egg and chicken farms in Jordan because of the high rise in production cost. For example

one ton of corn, which used to sell for JD 50 is now selling for JD 106 while soya fodder, which was selling in 1988 for JD 100 per ton, is now selling for JD 203 per ton.

Minister of Agriculture Dr Faleh Al Khasawneh responded later by promising citizens that the egg crisis will end "within the coming few weeks." He said the advent of Ramadan will decrease egg consumption while egg production should increase by spring. He added that Jordan's monthly production of table eggs is estimated at 55 million while consumption is put at 24 million, a surplus of 10 million eggs a month, which remain unaccounted for since there is no regulation, according to the minister, to allow egg exports from Jordan.

Local columnists have been quipping over the fact that a number of Lower House deputies were absent from the latest sessions without an official excuse. At one occasion early this month the session was postponed because the necessary quorum was not attained and the following session was delayed for hours until deputies were summoned from their homes to complete the legal quorum.

Deputies have also complained of the high rate of absenteeism in House committees. The deputies who have missed last Sun-



Ad-Dustour

day's House session without an excuse are: Abdel Aziz Jabr, Ya'qoub Qarash, Leith Shbeilat, Taher Al Masri, Mansour Murad, Fawzi Tueimah, Suleiman Arar, Zeib Anis, Ziad Abu Mahfouz, Foud Al Khalafat and Faisal Al Jazi.

The Petra Bank case is still lingering. Sources revealed that only JD 92 million have been reclaimed from the JD 207 million of the bank's loans to companies and individuals. Only \$1 million of the bank's \$3 million foreign loans have been paid back, while the bank, which is under liquidation sold JD 10 million worth of its assets so far. The main office building of the former Petra Bank on Wadi Sagna St. has now been purchased by the Cairo-Amman Bank.

Hundreds of engineers held a two-hour sit-in in front of the Ministry of Public Works on

Sunday to protest their work and appointment conditions. Minister of Public Works and Housing Mr Sa'd Hayel Surour said there was no justification for the sit-in, which was called for by the Engineers Association since his ministry has responded to most of the engineers' demands, but according to the Association over 4,000 public sector engineers are affected. The Association has also decided to hold a partial strike on Wednesday and Thursday. Basically the Association is calling for a repeal of the government's decision number 23/1988 regarding allowances and a return to the 1977 technical allowances system.

More than 25 vehicles suddenly came to a halt, while others slowed down completely, during last week in the northern town of Deir Abi Said creating a minor traffic jam. After checking under the hood it was discovered that the gasoline in these vehicles, which had all filled from the same gas station, had a high percentage of water in it. The station's gasoline tanks had water in them, it was later revealed.

Dr Al Sharif sues deputy Al Abbadi for libel

UNIVERSITY OF Jordan English literature professor Dr Nabil Al Sharif is suing Lower House deputy Ahmad Owaid Al Abbadi on charges of libel and the spreading of false information. Dr Al Sharif's lawyer, Mr Jamal Al Dmour filed the suit at an Amman court charging that deputy Al Abbadi in his speech before the Lower House session on the state budget had contained paragraphs that are libelous, malicious and false, according to a news item in Saturday's Ad-Dustour daily.

According to law, the Minister of Justice will ask the Speaker of the Lower House that the House lift the immunity which deputy Abbadi enjoys while the House is in session. But the lifting of immunity requires a two-third majority in the House, which observers believe will set a precedent if it happens.

Deputy Abbadi accused Dr Al Sharif, without naming him in person, of receiving money from an embassy in return for publishing favorable news. But he failed to present evidence to back this allegation.

In his same speech deputy Abbadi attacked the minister's information, planning and finance and accused them of implementing the "protocols of Zion". Deputy Abbadi was criticized by his own colleagues for his libelous statements and for "personalizing" the issues.

During the same House session Prime Minister Sharif Ben Shaker indirectly criticized Abbadi's style of dialogue and dealing with the Executive Branch.

Meanwhile, sources close to Dr Sharif said that if the House refuses to lift immunity from deputy Abbadi, then he will sue him once the current House adjourns.

Meanwhile the House was scheduled to discuss on Wednesday a government request to lift immunity from deputy Yacoub Qarash who is accused of endorsing a JD 16,800 cheque without sufficient funds. The House Legal Committee has recommended that the House allows procedures to pass to try deputy Qarash.



Dr Al Sharif

An American telecommunications company has claimed it is competing with the Jordan Telecommunications Co. (TCC) by undercutting TCC prices on overseas calls by 50 per cent. According to Howard Jones, president of International Discount Telecommunications Corp. of New York, said that his company takes advantage of the fact that it is less than half as much as Jordan from America as it is to call America from Jordan.

He added that the multilateral talks which opened in Moscow on Tuesday aim at discussing economic and social issues concerning the region as a whole. He said participants, who included most Arab countries, Israel, the EC, Japan, China, Canada, in addition to the United States and from America and automatic participants, expressed their visions about the future of the Middle East and regional relations after the achievement of peace. The day Moscow talks will address procedural and not substantive issues at this stage. Dr Majali said that matters of substance will be discussed at a later stage and should be tied to progress in the bilateral talks.

The company, Mr Jones claimed, is now competing with local phone companies and has forced them to "lower their prices" rates. The company also received media attention for its ingenuity by such prestigious publication as the New York Times. Any comments from TCC?

Lower House Deputy Karim Al Dughail has said it is unconstitutional to allow about 200 Jordanian taxi drivers on the Ramtha-Dir (Syria) route to travel to Syria between 8 am and 5 pm and to obtain special permit every time they needed to travel to Syria. Drivers staged a sit-in in front of the Ramtha Administration Building on Monday and vowed to continue their protest until regulations are repealed.

'Peace conference is a battle of patience,' Dr Majali

By Hind-Lara Mangro
Special to The Star

HEAD OF the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, Dr Abdel Al Salam Al Majali, has said that the multilateral talks which opened in Moscow on Tuesday aim at discussing economic and social issues concerning the region as a whole. He said participants, who included most Arab countries, Israel, the EC, Japan, China, Canada, in addition to the United States and from America and automatic participants, expressed their visions about the future of the Middle East and regional relations after the achievement of peace. The day Moscow talks will address procedural and not substantive issues at this stage. Dr Majali said that matters of substance will be discussed at a later stage and should be tied to progress in the bilateral talks.

Dr Majali said Syria and Lebanon have boycotted the Moscow talks, while the Palestinians refused to attend the opening ceremony after the United States and the composition of the Palestinian delegation which included delegates from Jerusalem and Palestinians from the Occupied Territories. Dr Majali said Syria and Lebanon did not attend the multilateral talks due to the short period which has elapsed between the round of bilateral talks and the launching of the Moscow multilateral talks. Dr Majali's view Syria and Lebanon "did not refuse to attend the talks, but felt it was too early to resume the progress of the bilateral talks."

Commenting on the Israeli position, Dr Majali said that he has not felt that the elections will hinder the peace talks in any way. "Even Yitzhak Shamir's election, the question of which is not negotiable, has not dampened hope that peace may be achieved eventually," he said.

Deputies have not had any evidence though of Israel's intentions in the peace conference. The only encouraging sign is that the Israelis have agreed a two track basis for the bilateral talks so far, he added.

In his opinion the Israeli side has not presented anything of substance (at the Washington round) while the Palestinians presented a document about their vision of the interim period. The Israeli side offered "a vision of peace" and what the peace conference meant to them. It was decided in Washington that the next round of bilateral talks should take place on 10 February in Washington. The Israelis, Dr Majali said, asked for a change to the round, but the answer was that this could not be achieved unless there was clear progress in the negotiations, Dr Majali said.

Commenting on Jordan's role in the peace talks, Dr Majali said that Jordan was acting in conformity with its role as a member of the United Nations. Its close relationship with Israel and the Occupied Territories has affected its role. Jordan is suffering from a lack of Israel's settlement policies in all aspects, demography, and physically. Dr Majali added, in defending the role of Jordan and the world in the peace talks, that the



Dr Majali

have very strong ties.

Speaking about the breakthrough in imposing the two-track approach in the Washington negotiations, Dr Majali said that giving in to the Israeli demand "would have reinforced the Zionist claim that Jordan is Palestine" and that Jordan has to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. This claim was refused by both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

Dr Majali added that the "multilateral" was provided by Jordan for the Palestinians to participate in the first round and to give them the chance to negotiate with Israel. "However, once the bilateral talks commenced negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, could take place directly."

Dr Majali emphasized that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations were appointed by different authorities. "They joined together and did not start off as one delegation as the Israelis have suggested," he said. "They (the two tracks) identified certain points for the agenda with priority given to the interpretation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which are to be used as a reference for the whole meeting."

Dr Majali reiterated Jordan's position that the greatest threat to peace negotiations are the Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Territories. "Settlements should be frozen for the duration of the negotiations," he said.

The former minister and president of the University of Jordan said that Jordan views the United States as a serious broker in the Middle East peace talks. In the case of deadlocks, Dr Majali said it is the duty of both negotiating teams to avoid pitfalls and to remove obstacles in the way of peace. "This problem is complex and cannot be solved within four or five rounds of negotiations," he said.

On the future role of the United

Haikal on the state of the Arabs

AMMAN (Star) — Egyptian thinker, writer and political analyst Mohammad Hassanin Haikal has said that the United States is seeking to create an open Arab world and that it has started its design by destroying Iraq and controlling the Gulf and that next step will be to subjugate Libya before moving on to Syria.

In an lengthy interview with the Egyptian opposition paper, Al Ahali, Haikal warned that the United States is using the Security Council to pass such designs and that the Arabs are left without arms to face Israel in Madrid, Washington and now in Moscow. He said that contrary to what many Arabs believe, Israel's importance to the United

States is increasing and not decreasing. He added that today and instead of a thread of hope uniting the Arabs from the Gulf to the (Atlantic) Ocean, there is a thread leading to destruction and instability.

He predicted that the United States will succeed in imposing economic sanctions against Libya, which will negatively affect Egypt both economically and politically.

Mr Haikal said that the crisis in the Arab world began with the military defeat in the 1967 war, which dealt a shock to the pan Arab national program. This led to giving Israel and the United States the opportunity to force their own program of subjugating the region, the fruits of which we see today in isolating the Palestinians, the peace talks, the destruction of Iraq, the containment of Syria and Libya and even in Algeria. ■

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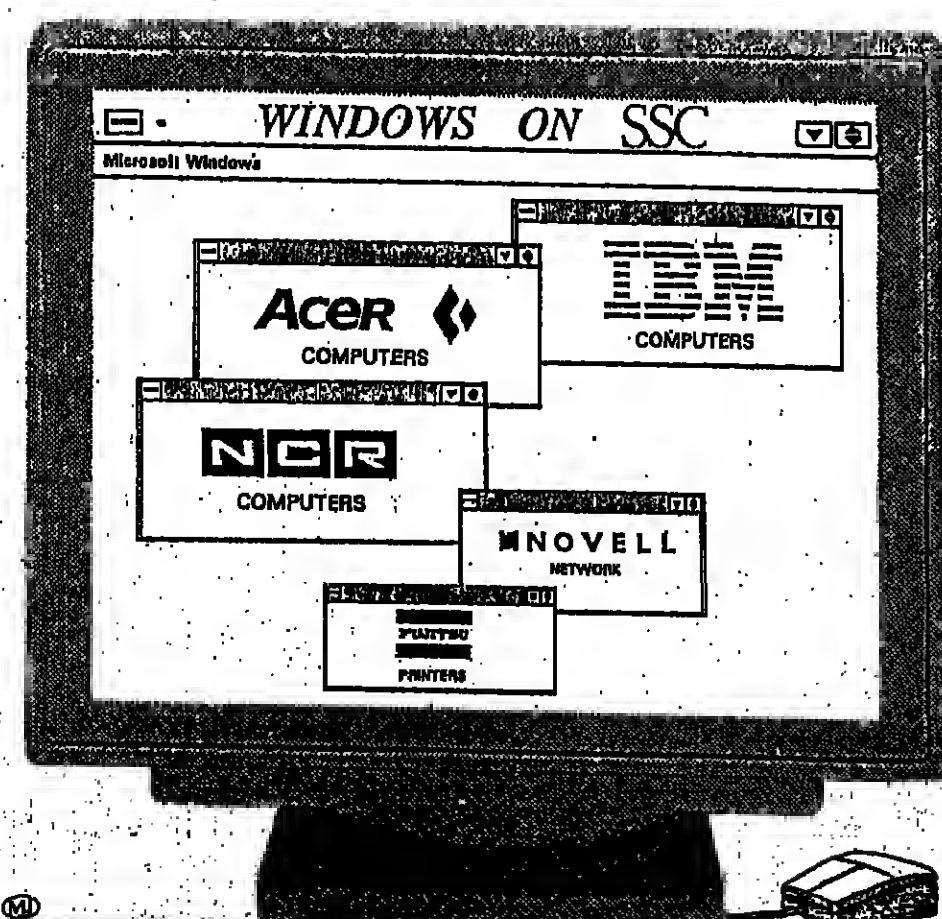


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مركز النظم

By Youssef M. Ibrahim

The putsch in Algeria Islamic or secular state?

THERE WAS considerable relief in the salons of the middle classes when the Algerian Army, hiding behind a civilian administration, put an end to a democratic process that was leading Islamic fundamentalists straight to power in Algeria. But the battle for Algeria is not over and this North African country may yet become the Middle East's third Islamic republic, joining Iran and the Sudan.

Having won big in the first free elections in the Arab world last month, Algeria's Islamists have kept to the high moral ground, eschewing violence for the moment as the old guard flails about in desperation, trying to justify reneging on its promise to abide by the verdict of the ballot box. It was the Army and government officials, after all — not the Islamists — who forced President Chadli Benjedid out of power and out short the democratic process Mr Benjedid launched in 1988.

So it was that when the Islamic Salvation Front's (ISF) millions of supporters gathered at mosques around the country on Friday and found themselves surrounded by soldiers and riot policemen, with nearly 500 of their party cadres under arrest, the word from the leadership was: "Stay calm. Don't be provoked by the army," they were told. It was a strategy of self-confidence, designed to swell the movement's ranks by gathering sympathy until power falls into its lap like a ripe fruit off a tree.

Symbolically, perhaps, the confrontation was being played out just a year after the start of the Gulf War, a conflict that forced the world to notice the ideological confusion, political dissatisfaction and social tensions that have been growing through-out the Arab world for decades. These rifts are perhaps as dramatic in Algeria as anywhere: Nighmarish economic, social and demographic problems have accumulated over 30 years of mismanagement and corruption here, and the government's effort to stop the election has only further damaged its weak claim to legitimacy.

How did Algeria, which in 1962 emerged from its seven-year war of liberation as a vanguard of Arab nationalism and a leader in the third world's embrace of socialist egalitarianism, come to this?

One answer is that while the society was experiencing an explosion of new needs in the last 30 years, the once-revolutionary leadership was only making itself more comfortable.

Since 1962, Algeria has had one of the most rapid population explosions anywhere, growing

from 7 million people to 26 million. Despite impressive reserves of oil and natural gas, the country is saddled with \$25 billion in foreign debts. Nearly 30 per cent of the population is unemployed. Young men sleep in shifts because there are not enough beds in most households. Young men and women cannot marry for lack of housing.

Meanwhile, the once-idealistic men who 35 years ago united to end the French occupation have become encrusted in power and deeply divided by bitter feuds.

A long absence

One measure of the effect of the feud was that Mohammed Boudiafe, a 72-year-old exile, was totally unfamiliar to the new generation of Algerians when he was called back to Algiers two weeks ago to lead the new council that assumed presidential powers. He had stayed in Morocco for 28 years because he had a falling out with Ahmed Ben Bella, Algeria's first president, shortly after the revolution. Mr Ben Bella himself was jailed in 1965 by his successor, Houari Boumedienne.

Meanwhile, the elite mouthed slogans about egalitarianism and socialism but all the while enshrined their own privileges. Anyone who fought in the war of liberation could get tax-free imports, preferential housing and special rights to travel. These benefits were made hereditary. Today, young people who call themselves "sons of the *Mujahideen*" claim the privileges and form what Algerians call the "chichi" society.

The social divisions only worsened after oil prices fell a decade ago. What was left of Algeria's revenues was used to keep the new privileged class comfortable. Investments in schools, housing, medical care, agriculture and even the vital oil industry have stopped.

In addition, Algeria emerged from 130 years of French occupation as a country whose emotional identity was Arab but whose language and style of thinking at the top of society were distinctly French. Back in 1962, the leadership of the ruling National Liberation Front (NLF) decreed that the nation was to be "Arabized." But this came as a profound shock to many, and there is still considerable resistance.

While most of the new generation has been taught in Arabic, for example, the ruling elite — and its children — remain thor-



A tank in Algiers: How long will the army hold

oughly francophone. University education has broken down, in large part because of a split between French-speaking teachers and the broad mass of Arab-speaking students.

Perhaps most important, the Algerian revolution transformed Algeria's Arabs into an upper class and an underclass, in a country where there had been only poor Arabs before because the French had monopolized the country's riches.

"We are looking at a society where one million people at most are living within what we call civilized norms, which means that they have fairly decent salaries, they have accounts in a bank and they take vacations once in a while," said Zawi Ben Hamadi, a writer and editor of *Algeria Actualite*. "The rest of the population are at or below subsistence levels."

The dispossessed vote

It was this dispossessed majority that gave the Islamic Salvation Front its lopsided triumph in the first round of parliamentary elections, on 26 December last year. The fundamentalists won 188 seats out of 231, and they had been certain to win an absolute majority of the new parliament's 430 seats in a second round of voting, which was cancelled after the coup.

Now, as the old regime clings to power, it has fallen back on the 130,000-man army to hold off the fundamentalists. The army clashed with youths who took to the streets in 1988 and 1991, and it appears ready to do it again. But the question is for how long and at what price.

The army is "crossed by the same currents that cross Algerian society," Ammar Belhimer, an intellectual of the once ruling

party, concedes. "It is probably true that the top command is dead set against the fundamentalists. But as you travel down the ranks, opinions change."

The man who will manage the regime's last chance to hold power is Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, a reformist and technocrat who got the job last June after rioting by fundamentalists brought down the previous government.

"Fundamentalism is not a cause, it is a symptom," Mr Ghozali argued, lighting one cigarette after another. Algeria needs "to create a project for society that revives the egalitarian values on which our country was built," he said. "It may take 15 years to give everyone a house, a job and a decent living."

But we should quickly, within a year I say, give our youth hope they can have these things. The hope cannot wait."

With the Islamists knocking at the door, however, it remains an open question whether the old guard will have even one year in which to act. ■

New York Times

BRIEFS

By Ahmad Shaker

■ The Cabinet has decided to extend the procedure of paying a sum of \$6000 instead of serving the two-year military service for all Jordanians abroad until 31 July of this year.

■ Jordanian-Indian contacts are underway to sign an agreement under which Jordan will import 40,000 tons of wheat and 15,000 tons of rice in return for exporting Jordanian potash to India.

■ An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team is in Amman to meet officials from the ministries of finance and planning to review the Jordanian economic adjustment program and discuss the possibilities of extending soft loans to support Jordanian imports.

■ Latest statistics show that deposits in commercial banks have reached JD 5 billion by the beginning of this year.

■ Jordan's ambassador to Washington Mr Hussein Hamam will be transferred to Amman next July, The Star has learned.

■ The government will announce a tender to build a tomato paste factory in Mafrqa governorate to absorb surplus production of tomatoes in both Mafrqa and Irbid.

■ The government will announce a tender for the feasibility of building a railway line connecting Zarqa with downtown Amman. Financing for the study will come from technical assistance extended to Jordan.

■ The government is considering inviting non-Jordanian trucks to carry phosphate, potash and cement from mines in Aqaba to cope with the increasing pressure on exports from Aqaba.

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30 JANUARY 1992

By Fahd A. Salameh

This is the first in a twelve-part series which will focus on recently-published literary works by Jordanian writers.

IN DAMASCUS last year, the well-known Jordanian writer Mahmoud Shugair published a collection of short stories under the title *Roses for the Prophet's Blood*, his seventh collection so far.

Mahmoud Shugair was born in Amman in 1941, and his talent for writing was evident to all who knew him at a very early age. In 1961 he enrolled in The University of Damascus, where he studied philosophy and sociology. At the same time, he started publishing his short stories and essays in Jordanian and Arab newspapers and journals.

After graduating in 1965, he worked on his literary career, and became vice-chairman of the Jordanian Writers Association in the early eighties. He has produced five works of drama for television stations, notably the Jordan Television series "It Happened in The Ma'moura", which attracted much attention.

In 1991, Mahmoud Shugair won the Mahmoud Sifuddin Award Prize for short story writing, an acknowledgement of his important contribution to this genre. He presently chairs a centre for studies and research, and is a regular contributor to the Jordanian daily newspaper *Al-Jalil*.

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Marwan returns home before evening falls. Exhaustively he recalls every moment he spent with his beloved fiancée, and every word he told her about their wedding party which is to take place in a fortnight's time. Marwan approaches the house at the end of the lane, in the avenue which is full of soldiers. Just before his hand touches the handle of the door, Marwan feels dead.

A bullet, shot by one of the soldiers entrenched at the end of the lane, penetrates his chest. But he does not die — until the picture of his wedding is fully drawn in his mind.

In almost every story in this collection, we sense the presence of the Intifada, the violence by which the soldiers deal with the unarmed population, and the ghost of death hovering over their heads, destroying the happy dreams and the budding aspirations of the youth.

The narrative technique in this collection shifts from the omniscient narrator with strict chronological order of events, to the semi-stream-of-consciousness technique. But whichever Shugair employs, the power of his narrative holds strongly and arouses one's curiosity to follow up, to discover, and to reveal.



Mahmoud Shugair

colored dresses during the Saudeh, and thus she will dance in front of the people — especially in front of Marwan himself — in a manner she has never done before.

Marwan feels the dresses with his fingers, surveys the delicate extensions of their colors. He becomes bolder and gazes at his fiancée's eyes. Their eyes meet, and she feels her emotions overpowering and overwhelming. Very carefully, Marwan touches the soft hand. She tenderly pulls it back, opens another wardrobe, and brings out various sorts of colorful clothes. Marwan looks with delight. She tells him that she will be busy in the coming weeks preparing trousers and shirts for their child which will be born in one winter. Marwan, no longer red in the face, laughs and says to her: "We haven't got married, yet; we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Yet, she insists that the child will come, otherwise she can never experience peace of mind. Before she closes the wardrobe of dresses and clothes, he suddenly pulls her to him, and they embrace.

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He goes out in the early morning in the dewy street which knows no silence. A while ago, the world woke up from its slumber. Millions of men drink delicious coffee on their balconies; and there's a man on the 20th story balcony of his apartment, coughing. He puts out his cigarette and says, "Tomorrow morning..."

Shugair's depiction of characters in this collection does not follow conventions; Forster's terms of "flat" and "round" characters are not applicable in this context. They are sketches of people who may or may not exist, but they have a more symbolic nature, featuring certain aspects of the human tragedy. Even when given names, events show them to be of a more philosophical nature that transcends the particular to the more general in scope.

The plot is generally simple in all the stories of this collection, and in many cases could be summed up in a line or two. Nevertheless, they offer profound insight into the human nature, human suffering and understanding. One always misses a great deal if one is satisfied with a plot summary for Shugair's stories. We'll take a last example, with the story, "A Siab".

In a city where women are so many, Marwan looks for a friend. Unintentionally, I ask her about the site of The Three Roses Café, as I thought I had fallen in love with the girl who worked there when I went there once with a friend; and since I don't know the place very well, I cannot tell where that café lies.

Marwan takes me by the hand, and I suggest going somewhere else, explaining that it would be more suitable to know a new place. My real intention, however, was to spend some time with Marwan, who immediately understands me. And her eyes reveal her inner desires.

We go to a bar near the building of the old museum, and Marwan asks me to enter first. She says this is the convention of that country, as there may be some trouble-makers, and under such circumstances a man would en-

THE STAR 5

Focus on Jordanian literature

Mahmoud Shugair: The agony of Palestine

There are two major characteristics for this collection: The first is the brevity and concentration of the stories; a whole story may occupy only one or two pages. Such a form requires condensed, expressive language, attained only by a skillful writer who controls his ideas and the vehicle for their communication.

The second major characteristic of this collection is the inclusiveness of the pictures the stories portray. A picture of simultaneous events in many parts of the world can be brought skillfully and unobtrusively through his stories. When brought together, these two characteristics produce a poetry-like narrative which captivates the reader, keeps him under a spell, and sharpens his sense of expectation. His story "Departure" is an example:

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ter before a woman to give her protection and safety. Knightly convention fascinates me, and I say to myself, "Martha, who is as tender as a bird, deserves every attention."

All of a sudden, as we are drinking our cups, I discover that Martha hates the public sector, and she says that the age of kings was more appealing. I had discovered that, apparently without any cause, Martha hates people. One day, she introduced me to one of her friends, and as I expressed my admiration for that girl, Martha whispered to me that her friend suffers from a chronic disease. In addition, she is not good at making love, as her menstruation is irregular and blood flows from below her stomach always, incessantly.

Martha does not like the public sector, and listens to everything hostile that radio stations transmit; and she is provoked by the errors of the leadership which should not be criticized. And Martha says she is making plans to migrate to Uncle Sam's country. She is astonished at my support for the public sector, and she says, half-jestingly, half-seriously, that she has called at the wrong address by making my acquaintance. Far, as Martha claims, I am from a people that launches war against Israel, the peace-seeking country.

Martha is not good at listening to others, does not pay heed to arguments, nor allows the right of speech.

Martha who is like a bird, Mortha, whose poisonous thoughts aroused my concern for her, Martha whom I tried all the time to dissuade from hating people, Martha, before whom I had entered the bar to give safety, stabbed me in the back with a dagger she had in her handbag, and rapidly escaped from the place.

Roses for the Prophet's Blood is a work of extraordinary skill and art. Reading the whole collection may guide one to the source which inspired its author to give it its title. It portrays Man's suffering by war, oppression, manipulation of force, authority, and egoism. The collection reveals how fragile and weak man is, and how susceptible he lies when disarmed of his moral and spiritual values. On the other hand, it shows how individuals can stand the pressures of hardship when armed with spiritual and ethical values, in the face of tyranny and repression. Its contents correspond to the central idea of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, that "Man could be destroyed, but not defeated."

ter before a woman to give her protection and safety. Knightly convention fascinates me, and I say to myself, "Martha, who is as tender as a bird, deserves every attention."

All of a sudden, as we are drinking our cups, I discover that Martha hates the public sector, and she says that the age of kings was more appealing. I had discovered that, apparently without any cause, Martha hates people. One day, she introduced me to one of her friends, and as I expressed my admiration for that girl, Martha whispered to me that her friend suffers from a chronic disease. In addition, she is not good at making love, as her menstruation is irregular and blood flows from below her stomach always, incessantly.

Martha does not like the public sector, and listens to everything hostile that radio stations transmit; and she is provoked by the errors of the leadership which should not be criticized. And Martha says she is making plans to migrate to Uncle Sam's country. She is astonished at my support for the public sector, and she says, half-jestingly, half-seriously, that she has called at the wrong address by making my acquaintance. Far, as Martha claims, I am from a people that launches war against Israel, the peace-seeking country.

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Fahd A. Salameh is a producer at Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.



The Spanish Cultural Centre in Amman

announces the start of registration for its extensive Spanish courses for beginners.

Registration for courses started Monday, Jan. 20. Courses start Feb. 1, 1992 and will continue till March 4, 1992.

Classes on Saturdays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5 till 7 p.m.

For more information please call the Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, the 3rd Circle, Mohammed Hafez Muz Street, tel. 610668 or 624049

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Folk costumes in Sweden

AMMAN (Star) — A Jordanian/Palestinian-Swedish cultural event will take place at the Gothenburg Ethnographic Museum. It will include an exhibition of 200 Jordanian/Palestinian folk costumes and corresponding accessories, jewelry and household crafts belonging to Mrs. Widad Kawai. The event will be attended by HRH Princess Majda and Swedish former foreign minister Sten Andersson.

By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer

Jordan's first antiques show meets with staggering success

AS JORDAN'S art and antique buffs descended upon the Amman InterContinental Hotel last Friday, there were optimistic signs that the nation's post-war economic prudence may be on the wane.

Advertised proudly as Jordan's first ever public antiques auction, the event drew in unexpectedly enthusiastic crowds, as affluent couples, curious onlookers, diplomats and hotel residents squashed eagerly into the ballroom, waiting for the bidding to begin.

The volume of the public's response to the auction surprised everyone, not to mention its apprehensive organizers. Mr. Abu Dhais, auction supervisor and proprietor of the Islamic and Arabic Heritage House in Jebel Luweibdeh, said the turn-out to the auction was excellent, and was somewhere in the region of 700 people, when only 200 had been expected.

The auction took a month and a half to organize and was a collaborative effort between the Arabic and Islamic Heritage House and The House of Antiques in Abdoun. Two Iraqi antiques experts, Dr. Taleb Al Baghdadi and Mr. Muhammad Al Baghdadi, who own their own successful antiques business in the Iraqi capital, also cooperated on the Jordanian side.

Having gathered a substantial stock from dealings with Jordanian collectors, the two antique

houses laid on an Aladdin's cave of items for their program, such as rare old furniture, porcelain and glassware, old silver works, a selection of paintings and rare manuscripts, exquisite oriental carpets and traditional jewelry.

Bidding got off to a brisk start with the paintings category, as Jordanian art collectors snapped up a number of nineteenth-century oils and orientalist lithographs. Excitement mounted early on, with a long and heated succession of bids for a marble-mounted statue of a man astride his charger. The price was going sky-high, until the triumphant bidder finally claimed her prize for JD 2,400.

Religious texts and artefacts were in abundance, with a broad selection of wooden-mounted icons up for sale, most of them Russian in origin and ranging from between 40 to 200 years old. There were also a number of splendid Quran manuscripts of varying beauty that positively dazzled the audience with their intricately ornamented text and glorious gold leaf embellishments.

Other more unusual items included a number of local heritage artefacts that met with a disappointingly lukewarm response. There was a definite



Some of the items on exhibit

slowing in the bartering stakes for old samples of Palestinian currency, bank cheques and maps of the Holy Land, one even dating back to as early as 1686.

Supervisor Mr. Abu Dhais said he was disappointed to see that nobody had bought the currency. "It was not appreciated at all," he said. "There was a £50 Palestinian bank note there that was one of only four left in the world. This piece was sold in Geneva to a collector in Jordan for JD 9,200 and we didn't even sell it."

He also mentioned his surprise that a particularly exquisite, leather-bound Kashmin Quran, worth some JD 9,000 had not

been sold.

He said, however, that the more affordable porcelain and glassware had sold well, and that only one or two items out of 180 had gone unsold. The porcelain selection revealed some collectable pieces such as a Meissen ornamental bird, a Royal Crown Derby fruit plate and a hand-some Wedgwood soup tureen.

Sales from the silver collection were swift and consistent, with solid Russian samovars, Caucasian bolts, daggers and cutlery up for bidding. A silver Ottoman *nargileh* fetched a princely sum of JD 1000, while a silver Ottoman inkpot and a charming Asfahan mirror were considerably cheaper.

The last two categories of the auction's program included carpets and antique furniture. "The carpets, which were all over 60 years old, sold well at between JD 400 to 1,500," said Mr. Abu Dhais, "however the heavy furniture didn't sell as well."

Show-stoppers of the event included a large embroidered section of the cover of the Ka'ba, a piece with enormous religious value and a hammer price of JD 5,200; an enormous gilded vase with a twin peacock and floral design that weighed in at four and a quarter kilos of solid sil-

ver; a first edition (1876) copy of the Egyptian daily paper *Al-Ahram* (purchased for a mere snip at JD 320 by Mr. Mamdouh Bisharat), and a "Fabergé style" egg that looked deceptively genuine — especially with a pricing of JD 1,725.

Mr. Abu Dhais could not help but be delighted about the outcome of the auction, especially when he revealed that more than 85 percent of the items had been sold. "I think this is a record," he said, "even for international auctions." He was reluctant, nonetheless, to divulge the total amount that the auction had grossed, preferring to refer to it as a "professional secret" and adding that it was a pleasant surprise to him that the auction had not run at a loss.

The undeniable success of the project has meant that the time is ripe for the auction's organizers to plan a follow-up for the spring season. Mr. Abu Dhais is confident that the event has sparked off a new interest in the community, and said that, "We are now seeing the start of a whole new scene in Jordan. Our show has proven to the country's new collectors that antiques are not only attractive but are also an excellent investment."

JANUARY 1992

Khozem Merchant

FISHERMAN are cast their eyes — and nets — a further afield these days. They are venturing into the territorial shelf, beyond the 12-mile limit of inshore waters off the coast where for decades fishermen have practised their trade.

The concentration of activity in these waters has led to huge catches, notably of high-value lobsters and abalone in the continental shelf off the coast. The bounty: plenty of quality king-fish, tuna and other fish.

Official concern at the over-exploitation of the fishery prompted a joint venture by Oman and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to study the 200-mile zone. The report will be the basis of determining the catch in Omani waters. The Thabit Zahran Al Abdul Wahab, director of the Marine Resources and Fisheries Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, said.

So much over-fishing, he said, has depleted our resources to such an extent that a responsible number of fish will be depleted, and the richer fields further out will be left.

The quality wooden *hauri* boats have far exceeded their useful life in inshore waters. In any case, few boats possess any form of modern engine and processing equip-

Oman wants its fishermen to cast their nets wider

ment, necessary for longer journeys. Also, lobsters and abalone, among the more sedentary fish in inshore waters, were easy targets for fishermen reluctant to change the ways of a lifetime.

Nevertheless, the government has over the past two decades tried to change age-old ways. It has offered generous incentives and loans for the purchase of high-quality fiberglass boats; distribution and marketing of fish has been improved; and several 200-ton government-funded cold storage centers have been set up, some recently sold to the private sector in a bid to make it play a more active role in the industry.

Leading the way is Oman Fishing Co. (in which the government has a quarter share), which was formed in 1989 with subscribed capital of OR12.5 million.

Better boats and more developed on-shore infrastructure have, however, only served to highlight the problem of over-fishing.

Apart from periodic exhortations, the government's immediate response has been to introduce permits for fishermen (initially being enforced only for larger companies) and to reduce the fishing season. For lobsters, the season has been reduced



Omani fishermen: Casting their nets wider

from six months to two (December and January). Quotas have been imposed on industrial vessels.

Hardly surprisingly, these measures have proved unpopular with many of the country's estimated 18,500 self-employed fishermen whose efforts help to make fish Oman's biggest non-oil export. Many protested and indeed won concessions from the ministry; initially the authorities had proposed a total ban on

lobster fishing.

"For decades the industry has been unregulated. But the time has come to limit entry," says Mr. Abdul Salam. "Our measures do affect their livelihood but we have to take the long term view," he insists.

The long term view — outlined in the current five-year plan includes an ambitious program to build eight small, self-contained harbors (at Al Jazar in the south and Shinas in the

north-east, for instance). These will mainly service small fishermen who last year accounted for some 85 per cent of the total haul of 119,000 tons, earning revenues of some QR17.8 million. The rest was caught by industrial vessels. Some 20 per cent of the total catch was exported to neighboring states and also Japan.

Large-scale port development is also planned at Sur and Qurayyat in the north-east, enabling them to accommodate industrial vessels and ease pressure on Mina Qaboos. Industrial vessels — including some from Japan with which the authorities have signed fishing concessions — caught some 10 per cent of the total haul in 1990.

All the ports will boast enhanced processing and cold storage facilities. The work is expected to be finished by 1994, completing the transformation of an industry which was once as conspicuous for its foul smells as for its delicious catches. Southern fishermen's haul of sardines — later sold as fertilizer — would be left to dry on the southern beaches. The fumes were a reminder when the boats were in.

Today, though there is some concern among traditional fishermen who fear for their livelihood, it is the general air of optimism that is more striking. For most fishermen realize that their government is making a huge investment in an industry whose importance will grow given Oman's very limited oil reserves.

The Popular Theater:

A new home is established for experimental arts

By Vesna Masharqa
Special To The Star

THE ADVENT of democracy in Jordan has triggered the establishment of many new cultural movements and projects. The Popular Theater, also known as "The Theater of Sixty Chairs" is one of these outstanding new enterprises. It is an assembly of 15 theater artists attempting to establish a daily experimental theater, aimed at exploring and intro-

ducing various theater forms, different ideas and expressions.

Jordanian theater director Fathi Abdul Rahman, who also directs at The Popular Theater, said that the enterprise consists of several projects including daily theater, children's theater with a puppet workshop, a studio for recording music and sound effects and an editorial room for their magazine "Al Masrah", which will specialize in theater studies and research. Another

part of the project will be sponsoring courses for theater artists aimed at developing their professional skills and organizing visits by theater troupes from other non-Arab

countries. "The purpose of hosting visits by other theater groups from outside the Kingdom is to exchange professional experiences with our guests, and also to expose the Jordanian audience to various theatrical expressions," said Abdul Rahman.

He also talked about the meaning of "The Popular Theater" and misinterpretations of its name. "The name doesn't allude to the tendency of theater for the masses, theater is always for the people," he said. "What we are referring to here is our ambition to reach the audience through creative and artistic means, in a style which can direct them towards a certain idea. We want to be felt and understood by our audience, and this is the essence of The Popular Theater."

Abdul Rahman stressed that he believes in simplicity of theatrical expression and that only



New recruits at The Popular Theater

creative artists are capable of transforming complicated concepts into simple, understandable forms without the disintegration of the main idea.

Considering the fact that there is no new theater culture in Jordan and that the local theater audience is only just establishing the habit of theater going, I believe that we should stick to the principle of simplicity," he said. "Our main focus will be on an actor and his creative potential. Our actor will be the main pillar of a show."

Abdul Rahman said that his theater will be looking forward to productions with a limited number of actors and simple technical demands: "I appreciate sophisticated theater equipment as long as it supports an actor in his role and his movement on the stage," he said.

As a director, he expressed hope that he will always have the opportunity to widely inter-

act and cooperate with actors as to unify their creative ideas and put them into use.

As far as The Popular Theater's program for this year is concerned, the theater will play host to four groups from different Arab countries and it will put on five productions of its own, the first one appearing in two weeks. They will also participate in three up-and-coming festivals: The Youth Theater Festival, The Children's Theater Festival and The Second Jordanian Theater Festival. They will also publish four issues of their "Al Masrah" magazine.

Abdul Rahman expressed great satisfaction with his courageous decision to establish the theater. He even goes so far as to call it the greatest achievement of his life, saying: "I know that I will take at least a year until the theater becomes a regular, cultural need for our audience. We must be patient, and I believe it will be worth it."

Congratulations!



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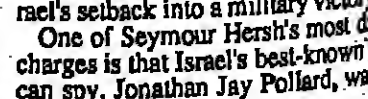
DOS PALMARAS
Jabal Amman - First Circle



Let us face it. The Palestinians have genuine fears of the outcome of this process, just as they have the right to their own representatives at the bilateral and multilateral talks. Denying the Palestinians these humble, but still undeniable doubts and rights merely to appease the Israelis lest they withdraw from the talks is a step backwards. The Palestinian issue deserves to be taken seriously in both fora and it does not help the cause of peace to affront the Palestinians, while looking the other way when Israel continues to violate the very sanctity of international law.

16:29 and 30

That Israel has nuclear weapons has long been known. What Hersh describes in *The Samson Option* is how Israel developed the weapons (more or less secretly), and how bitter was the opposition to the program within Israel. Thanks to his extensive research, Hersh is able to document that Israel's internal opposition to going nuclear was soundly based both on economic and on ideological grounds.



Continued on page

**Publisher
&
Editor-in-Chief
sama El-Sherif**

The heads of the delegation of contracts and general work, Chinese delegation members from their Israeli counterparts of improving modern tasks. The deal was wide-ranging: in a first was assigned to a private company, which subsequently in 200 plus ventures with foreign firms in China.

Israeli Foreign Minister Levy in Beijing this week

Warnings continued to arrive from Washington and the "compromise" for an Israeli delegation to Beijing headed by Hachohen which, however, never came, anyone senior to a deputy minister.

Dear Mr Croft:

Another misconception, that unfortunately remains a matter of interpretation, is one that the media continues to support, is that King Hussein sided with and condoned Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. The truth of what really perpetuates this idea, and aggravates the narrow-minded mentality of some so-called American patriots in this country, is the

Continued on page 13

The Samson Option

Continued from page 8

For the Israeli mouse to target the Soviet bear seems to involve a heretofore unimaginable level ofchutzpah. But Herzl's reputation for investigative competence and accuracy forces the reader to treat his allegations with respect. Behind his easy writing style lie levels of intense study that challenge the "uninformed."

Israel's obsession with security, not through accommodation with its neighbours but with the bludgeon of nuclear weapons, may prove to be the precipice over which its leaders take their followers, or the force that brings down the temple upon them all. ■

Ambassador Andrew I. Kilgore, a retired career foreign service officer, the publisher of the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

C'est la rentrée!

Deuxième semestre, c'est parti... A cette occasion le 'Jourdain' vous propose un numéro spécial. La toute nouvelle concurrence entre les universités publiques et privées est un des sujets majeurs de cette rentrée. Pour le Dr Ahmad S. Bashraieh, directeur général au 'ministry of higher education', ces deux secteurs sont complémentaires (P 10). Dr Suleiman Arabiyat, vice-président de l'université de Jordanie demanda un 'contrôle permanent' de ces institutions (P 11). Pendant ce temps, le privé prend de l'ampleur. Visite guidée de l'université Philadelphia (P 11). Autre question: la dévaluation du français dans un pays arabe et anglophone (P 10). Un dossier réalisé par Suleiman Sweiss, Michel Armand, et Francis Mazoyer

Le Français, valeur en hausse

"BONJOUR... PAPA... maman". Tout commence dès le plus jeune âge. L'école française d'Amman vient d'ouvrir une classe pour moutards de deux ans. "Cela fonctionne comme une crèche, affirme le directeur, Bernard Mahoux, l'avantage, c'est qu'au bout d'un an l'enfant parle déjà français". Le vocabulaire est limité. Mais les premiers liens avec la langue sont déjà noués. Cette expérience est une nouvelle corde à l'arc de l'école française, déjà sur la voie du succès. Malgré la parenthèse de la guerre du Golfe, les inscriptions suivent une courbe ascendante: 115 élèves en 1987; 160 pour 1992. Autre chiffre intéressant, seulement 40% des enfants appartiennent à la communauté française. Les autres, revendiquent 17 nationalités différentes. Le français est une langue internationale. Et ce pour trois raisons, affirme Bernard Mahoux: "Ceux qui voyagent choisissent les écoles françaises ou américaines, car ce sont les réseaux les plus répandus dans le monde. Ensuite, la pédagogie française est plus humaniste, elle demande plus de connaissances. Enfin, il faut, bien le dire, certains envoient leurs enfants à l'école française par snobisme, tout simplement parce que ça fait chic".

Business en Français

Gérard Martinez, directeur des cours au Centre culturel Français, se frotte les mains. Chiffres à l'appui. Le CCF entame son deuxième trimestre florissant

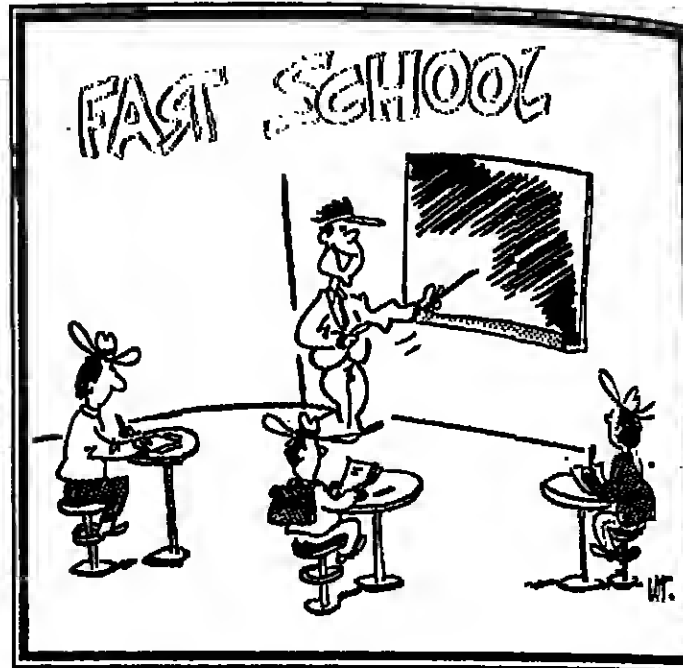


Premiers pas à l'école française

consécutif: 660 inscriptions pour le précédent; 650 pour les trois mois à venir. Il faut fouiller dans les statistiques du début 89 pour trouver à nouveau de tels résultats. Pourquoi cet engouement? Réponse de Gérard Martinez: "L'important, c'est que nous avons de plus en plus de cadres et de professions libérales, notre public se 'masculinise' (57%), avant il était d'avantage composé de femmes oisives". Il ajoute: "Le Français est désormais considéré comme une langue utilitaire, comme un plus dans un C.V. C'est une langue dont on se sert dans le business. Beaucoup de nos étudiants ont été employés dans des hôtels ou dans des entreprises. De plus, certains diplômes que nous proposons sont reconnus sur le plan international. C'est important pour ceux qui veulent émigrer..." Dans les universités jordaniennes, le français est également sur la pente ascendante. Au Yarmouk, à Irbid, environ 500 étudiants sont inscrits dans les différentes filières. 325 en "majeure", 30 en "mineure", et environ 150 choisissent le français en "valeur optionnelle". 60 % choisissent de s'inscrire en français. L'explication est simple, affirme Hussein Rehal, directeur du département des langues modernes, il n'y a plus

de débouchés en anglais, cette langue représente donc un atout supplémentaire. Résultat: chaque année, au Yarmouk, une centaine d'étudiants supplémentaires choisissent le Français. A l'université de Jordanie, les classes de français regroupent un peu moins de 400 élèves. Section la plus prestigieuse: la majeure inaugurée lors de la dernière rentrée d'octobre. Au deuxième semestre, cette section va compter 11 étudiants. "On choisit vraiment les meilleurs, cela vaut mieux que de sacrifier le niveau", explique Ahmad Wadi, professeur de français. Les heureux élus partent en stage d'été en France ("linguistique" ou "connaissance du pays"). "Peut-être un jour pourrions nous organiser des échanges avec l'hexagone" ajoute-t-il. Seul regret du prof: "Le français progresse à l'université, mais il connaît des difficultés en amont dans les écoles publiques, nous avons beaucoup d'étudiants qui viennent du privé". Réponse officielle de Chelhad Suleiman, responsable du français au ministère de l'éducation: "Nous avons un projet concernant l'enseignement du Français à partir de la septième. Il sera dévalué courant février".

Michel Armand



ITV

Dr Ahmed S. Bashraieh: 'Le privé et le public sont complémentaires'

Le point de vue officiel. Le 'Jourdain' a interrogé le directeur général du 'ministry of higher education'

Le Jourdain: Est-il de plus en plus difficile de rentrer à l'université?

Dr Ahmed S. Bashraieh: "Tous les étudiants qui fournissent les diplômes demandés ont l'opportunité d'accéder à l'université, quelle soit publique ou privée. Chacun peut avoir sa chance. Mais il est vrai que nous avons un nombre limité de places. Alors il faut sélectionner les étudiants. Dans certaines sections spécialisées, comme la pharmacie ou la médecine, nous ne pouvons accepter tout le monde. Pour ceux qui sont refusés, ils doivent se rabattre sur les 'Collèges de communauté' (filiales courtes), ou sur le privé. L'étudiant doit accepter ce qu'on lui propose. Il doit être réaliste".

L.J: Vous suggérez aux exclus de s'inscrire dans les universités privées. Dispensent-elles un enseignement correct?

A.S.B: "La plupart proposent des formations spécialisées. Ces universités représentent une chance supplémentaire pour l'éducation jordanienne. Mais aussi pour les étudiants. Avec leur arrivée, le nombre de places a augmenté. Je crois que le privé et le public sont réellement complémentaires".

L.J: Sont-elles contrôlées?

A.S.B: "Ces universités obéissent aux normes fixées par le 'bureau de la haute éducation'. C'est lui qui donne ou refuse la licence, c'est-à-dire le permis d'enseigner. Les experts vérifient les bâtiments, la librairie, le niveau des professeurs. Par la suite, d'autres contrôles sont organisés. Ce n'est pas seulement une fois".

L.J: Les prix aussi?

A.S.B: "Pas pour le moment, mais cela peut venir. Les universités privées sont effectivement chères, mais cela dépend de leur nature. C'est normal. Mais si vous calculez combien ça coûte de suivre des études à l'étranger, le tarif des privées n'est pas si exorbitant".

L.J: Les études dans le privé sont-elles plus pratiques et plus proches des réalités?

A.S.B: "Personne ne peut dire ça pour le moment. Un étudiant diplômé en informatique doit avoir de la théorie et de la pratique. C'est pareil dans le privé et dans le public. Les universités privées sont-elles plus compétitives. Personne ne peut le dire maintenant. Elles viennent juste d'être créées".

Propos recueillis par F.M.

A VOIR...

■ NUIT DU CINEMA - C'est la deuxième organisée par le Centre culturel français. Jeudi 30 janvier, à 20h00, "Une affaire de femme" (1988), un film de Claude Chabrol, avec Isabelle Huppert. Le thème: en 1940, une jeune mère se révolte contre une société dont elle veut briser les tabous. Dans la foulée, à 23h30, "Le dossier 51" (1978), un film de Michel Deville, avec Roger Planchon et Anne Prucnal, d'après le roman de Gilles Ferrault. Un service de renseignements tente, par tous les moyens, de manœuvrer un haut fonctionnaire.

■ PEINTURES D'ENFANTS - Mardi 4 février à 18 h, au CCF vernissage de l'exposition "peintures d'enfants", de l'école maternelle française d'Amman.

Le public...

Dr Suleiman Arabiyat: 'Réduisons le nombre des filières courtes'

Les coulisses de la rentrée avec le vice-président de l'université jordanienne. Interview



Jordanie: Le deuxième semestre universitaire est en passe de commencer. Cette rentrée est-elle un grand rendez-vous?

S.A: "Elle est importante. Mais déjà, nous avons celle de septembre. Les législations sont en attente de révisions. Elles seront définitivement prêtes peu avant la rentrée d'octobre. Le budget est déjà fixé et approuvé. Il y a un certain nombre de priorités. Le compte des services et des étudiants ont besoin. L'objectif principal est de garantir le bon niveau de l'enseignement".

Y a-t-il des projets: la construction d'un "complexe" pour les études de médecine, de sciences humaines et de sciences juridiques?

S.A: "Au semestre qui s'écoule, nous avons un projet de conforter par les étudiants. Nous ne sommes toujours en contact avec eux. Nous voulons répondre à leurs besoins culturels, scientifiques et matériels. Nous accordons une attention particulière aux résidents universitaires des étudiants qui viennent de la campagne de Cisjordanie".

Avez-vous peur de la concurrence des universités privées? Nous sommes partisans de la démocratie de

l'enseignement. Donc, nous accueillons favorablement la contribution du secteur privé. Nous souhaitons simplement que ces universités abordent des domaines différents des nôtres. Personnellement, je souhaite que

les facultés privées réussissent dans leur entreprise. Une restriction toutefois, je remarque que leurs soucis principaux sont économiques et financiers. Elles cherchent le profit. Je suis donc favorable à un contrôle

permanent du niveau de ces universités.

L.J: Que pensez-vous des règlements adoptés récemment qui prévoient le "pontage" entre les "collèges de communauté" (filiales courtes et techniques, après le bac) et les universités?

S.A: "Je ne ressens pas le besoin de ce "pontage". Cette opération (NDLR: celle-ci est évoquée depuis 1986), ne devrait pas englober toutes les spécialisations. Elle devrait se limiter à celles dont la société a besoin".

Ces dernières années, on s'est fait beaucoup de promotion pour ces "collèges". Ces derniers sont à l'origine de l'aggravation du problème du chômage parmi les jeunes.

Au départ, l'idée était de fournir des cadres moyens. Tenter de les reconvenir en universitaires dépasse l'objectif fixé. A mon avis, il faut supprimer un grand nombre de ces collèges, et introduire de nouvelles spécialisations dans le domaine technologique.

Enfin, je crois que ce "pontage" va se heurter à de grosses difficultés. Les administrations des universités vont trainer des deux pieds".

Propos recueillis par Suleiman Sweiss.

Le privé...

Philadelphia, fac à l'américaine

Des bâtiments, un enseignement et une équipe modernes. Quand le privé tente d'obtenir sa part du gâteau

PHILADELPHIA, VERITABLEMENT haut perché, en face du royaume d'Ajloun, est en train de prendre de la hauteur. Cette université privée est un modèle en Jordanie et peut-être dans le monde arabe, elle propose une éducation de qualité à des étudiants universitaires. L'ancien président, Sh. Touq, Le n'est pas un homme d'affaires. Observez une impulsion à la fois naissante, qui a vu le jour en octobre 1991.

Les universités n'ont pas une place pour tout le monde. Les habitants du Golfe et les étudiants du monde entier pour faire inscrire leurs enfants à la université. C'est original, je crois que nous sommes la seule université de tout le monde arabe à appliquer ce système" affirme Muhieddeen Sh. Touq, Président de l'autre côté de la barre: Les examinateurs nous demandent pourquoi nous voulons rentrer dans l'université, nous répondons à son égard, quelles sont les études que nous voulons suivre, sans oublier des questions plus personnelles.

L'étudiant vend la machine: "On s'intéresse aussi à notre situation financière". Philadelphia est une université privée. Donc chère. Une année complète en sciences coûte 2.300 Jordan Dinars. La même période en



Philadelphia: pallier les carences du système traditionnel

pharmacie, 2.700 J.D. "Cette université est plus chère que n'importe quelle autre" affirme Mouna, étudiante. Elle ajoute: "Je n'ai pas eu le choix, je voulais suivre des études pour devenir ingénieur en informatique, mais il n'y en avait pas à l'université de Jordanie. Puis, juste après mon inscription, ils ont créé une section...". Pas de chance. L'université comporte tout de même bon nombre d'avantages pour l'étudiant. Le principal: une palette d'études très variée. Pour simplifier, Philadelphia est divisée en deux départements

principaux, le collège "Engineering Science and Pharmacy" (Deux tiers des élèves), et le collège "Management, Art and Law" (Un tiers des élèves). Nombre de cours sont en anglais. "Nous sommes plus pratiques que les autres, nos étudiants seront sûrs de trouver un travail". Philadelphia regarde vers l'avenir. Ses dirigeants, dont Leila Sharaf, membre du parlement, multiplient les contacts avec les ambassades jordaniennes à l'étranger. Ils travaillent sur une brochure. Avec le nombre d'étudiants, le budget (un million quatre cent mille J.D. pour les neuf premiers mois) devrait rapidement augmenter. Ainsi que la renommée de l'université.

Francis Mazoyer

L'EDITO

de Suleiman Sweiss

Facs: la révision!

A LA fin de l'année 92, l'université de Jordanie fêtera son trentième anniversaire. Le temps de dresser le bilan.

D'abord, l'accès à l'université devient de plus en plus difficile. Les enfants des classes populaires restent souvent sur la touche. Tout est évidemment plus aisé pour la "bourgeoisie".

Ces disparités sont essentiellement dues aux tarifs exorbitants. Les études d'histoire ou de médecine en Jordanie coûtent aussi cher qu'en France.

Les exigences académiques ne sont pas respectées lorsqu'il s'agit de trouver des places pour les "pistonnés". Quant aux universités privées, toutes récentes, certes elles acceptent des étudiants aux moyennes laissant à désirer. Mais les frais d'inscription dépassent la limite du raisonnable.

Ensuite, l'éducation a peu de liens avec les besoins de la société jordanienne, en particulier avec le développement. Pour construire le complexe de la "Housing Bank", nous n'avons pas fait appel à des ingénieurs jordaniens ou à une compagnie locale. Mais à des Coréens! Pour étudier le problème de la pollution des eaux dans la vallée du Jourdain, on fait appel à des experts britanniques. A quoi bon multiplier les exemples. Ils sont connus de tous.

Nos universités sont presque des copies conformes de l'exemple américain. La preuve: certaines matières, comme la médecine ou les sciences sont enseignées en anglais. C'est faire fi de la loi, qui oblige les universités à "ambaiser" toutes les matières. Bref, nous avons besoin d'un enseignement national. Et qui n'imite pas. Mais attention! Une nationalité ne signifie pas être renfermé sur soi-même.

Nous consommons le savoir, mais nous ne le produisons pas. Disons le carrément: nous avons très peu de savants. De plus, le lien entre l'enseignement et ses applications concrètes sur le terrain est faible. Peut-être parce qu'on ne s'intéresse pas suffisamment au développement de la personnalité des étudiants. Ces derniers apprennent à apprendre par cœur. Mais pas à réfléchir d'une façon sérieuse et indépendante. Résultat: les établissements de l'enseignement supérieur sont des "usines" à fabriquer des chômeurs!

Le niveau a beaucoup baissé ces dernières années. Les universités et leurs soucis commerciaux ont contribué à aggraver la situation. D'urgence nous avons besoin d'une révision globale du système universitaire.



Congratulations!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Dr Tayseer Abdul Jabbar travelled to the United Arab Emirates and Oman last Sunday on a trip to enhance cooperation between ESCWA and its country-members. His first stop was in Abu Dhabi where he attended a three-day seminar, on Monday 27 January, entitled "Inter-Arab and Foreign Trade Policies" organized by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Dr Abdul Jabbar is expected to make another visit to Oman on 1 April in response to an official invitation extended by the government. During his visit, Dr Abdul Jabbar will discuss cooperation between Oman and ESCWA regarding a development program to be carried out in Oman.

● A two-day seminar was held last Saturday at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in cooperation with the MBTTO group of companies. The topic of the seminar was "Brackish/Seawater Desalination and Recycling of Used Water", at which the opening speeches were delivered by Minister of Water and Irrigation Mr Samir Kassar, Secretary General of HCST Dr Abdullah Toukan and Chairman of the MBTTO



● A grand celebration was held at the Marriott Hotel in Amman last Sunday marking ten years of success. Over 1,500 people attended the celebration. They represented companies, diplomatic missions and clients.

A huge cake in the shape of the Marriott building was prepared especially for the event and drinks and food were served in the ballroom. The management, represented by hotel manager Mr Francis Keenan and the vice-president of Marriott hotels in the Middle East Mr Bosschart, expressed their happiness over the event and hoped for more success in the future.

TO group Mr Farouq Ghan-dour.

Five papers were discussed during the seminar, three of which were given on Saturday, including "Reverse Osmosis, Theory and Cost", presented by Mr Abdul Kareem Smaili, "Specialty Chemicals" by Mr Eugene Aram, and "Application of Reverse Osmosis Technology for Water Reclamation" by Mr George Hayek.

The other two lectures, given on Sunday, included "Saving 40 per cent of Domestic Water Consumption" by Dr Maan Dibouni and "Chlorination Technology for Supplies of Safe Water" by Mr Peter Koster.

● The Orthodox Club and Educational Society in Amman will receive the Eastern Mennonite College study-tour group, arriving in Amman on Friday 31 January. They will stay for three days, during which they will attend seminars and lectures, meet with church leaders and visit archaeological sites such as Petra and Jerash.

The group will comprise 33 people: 15 women and 16 men. The sponsors are Mr Calvin, who is a professor of theology, and Marie Shenk. During their visit, the group hopes to learn about the activities of the Educational Society in general and the activities undertaken during the Gulf War.

The Eastern Mennonite College is located in Harrisonburg, VA, USA. It is one of several Mennonite colleges in the United States who believe that gaining some practical international experience is an important part of the formal educational process so as to gain a better understanding of people and places.

It is from this belief that this study-tour originates, and virtually all students study-travel outside the United States as part of their undergraduate education. During their month-long study-tour, the group visited Egypt and will visit Jordan and the West Bank.

● Last month, the British Council displayed the entries for their Amateur Photography Competition in a prize-giving exhibition. The winners were Jacqueline

Indian phenomenon



Handy fingers

The more, the merrier

AN ECCENTRIC hereditary phenomenon has marked five generations of a village in the southwestern part of India—residents have six fingers in each hand.

One story, which sounds more like a Greek myth, put forward by village people to explain this strange occurrence is recounted by the natives of Gujrat, a village in India, while others offer different interpretations.

According to them, the phenomenon began five generations ago when an Indian couple were unable to bear children. The couple, seeking help, invoked Shamunda Mataji, the goddess of fertility, and answered their prayers and gave them a six-fingered child. The couple, thrilled to have been given a child, despite its 12 fingers, proceeded to enlarge their family until the whole village was populated by 12-fingered people. ■



Agenda

Films

■ The American Cultural Center presents tonight the film "Fantasia" at 7 pm, a Walt Disney 1940 cartoon interpretation of a classical music concert concluded by Leopold Stokowski of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

A special matinee showing for children will be at 3 pm, in addition to the regular showing.

■ The British Council presents the film "A taste of honey" on Saturday night and Sunday morning 2 and 3 February, respectively, at 7 pm. The film is about Jo, who feels needed, cared for and loved for the first time in her life.

■ The French Cultural Center presents tonight the film "Une affaire de femme" at 8 pm. The film is about an angry mother who defies society and commits taboos.

Vandervelde for the pictures for People category, Haltham Jewell for the Best in Competition, Rina Khouri and Osama Al Natour for Glimpses of Jordan and finally Rand Hanoun and Lilian Khalaf for the Under 16 category.

● Minister of Youth Dr Saleh Irshaidat opened last Monday the art exhibition of artist Marwan Al Allan at the Baladna Art Gallery. On display were 118 paintings depicting issues of humanity in general and those of

Lectures

■ The British Council will be hosting Mr Anwar Akrouh, director of the library at Yarmouk University and the president of the Jordan Libraries Association, who will lecture in Arabic "Jordan Libraries Association" on 5 February at 6 pm.

Exhibitions

■ At Alla Art Gallery, Minister of Youth Dr Saleh Irshaidat will open the art exhibition of the artist Mahmoud Al Obaidi on Saturday night at 5:30 pm. The exhibition will run until 8 February.

Sight-seeing

■ Friends of Archaeology tomorrow Friday will conduct a tour to the Roman Nymphaeum (downtown), Odeon (next to the Roman theatre) and the Archaeological Museum and the National Heritage Museum at the University of Jordan.

Departure will be from Amra Hotel parking lot at 9 am in private cars.

women's equality in particular. Al Allan used different media in his paintings to illustrate ideas including a brush, a knife and a knife. Attending members of the ministry staff and number of Jordanian artists were invited guests.

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Letter to CBS

Continued from page 9

If you don't go along with the "team," right or wrong, you're not a "team player." This mentality is so prevalent and so ingrained in all aspects of our society that anyone who deviates from it is liable to ridicule and condemnation.

King Hussein is guilty of anything in the Gulf War, he is guilty of the courage to accept the consequences of refusing to go along with a coalition set on destruction, in favor of a peaceful solution with no one, and that, Mr Croft, is what we, as a nation, can't accept; not from King Hussein, much less anyone else who stands up to the U.S.

I give you credit for your attempt to give substance to Mr. Croft's charges, first with Mr Kroll, and later through the location of an arms manufacturer whose records show millions of dollars in commissions controlled by Jordanian middlemen "in close contact with Jordan's Royal household." However, the mere fact that the inference you and Mr Chalabi attempt to make from the program with regard to King Hussein's involvement in the program in which you raise your attempt to link King Hussein, as you stated, about his "relationship to Saddam Hussein" is extremely misleading. His response only reflects the purpose of the interview, and not, as you suggest, your audience to believe, in response to, nor in avoidance of Chalabi's charges.

There is an issue or question is one thing, but to present them as the beyond a reasonable doubt, and without solid proof, is quite different. Not even in a court of law would your arguments hold up. This is the arms manufacturer, the middlemen, and the businessmen who support Mr Chalabi's allegations and your "evidence"? Are you going to support this all on blind faith and without question?

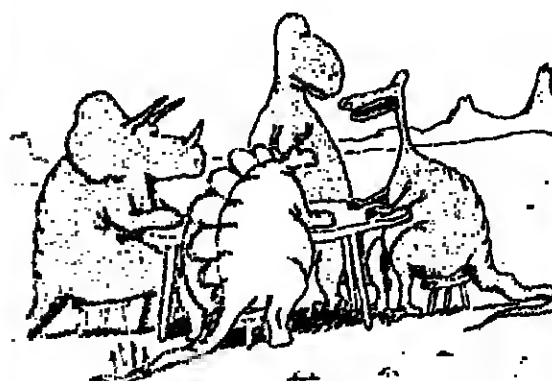
If I know, if you are seeking motivations, why not go one step further and investigate Mr Chalabi's true motivation behind his accusations. And, why not investigate the investigator, Mr Kroll, who you only used to establish Mr Chalabi's credibility, but, who is also employed by the Kuwaiti government. Investigate their motivations, why they may find another story behind the motivating forces, whether personal or profitable, in what appears to be an attempt to discredit King Hussein.

I've always looked to 60 Minutes for what I once believed was an accurate investigative reporting, based on facts, not hearsay. When not only done a great injustice to Jordan and Jordan's King Hussein, but have, in the process, damaged the credibility of 60 Minutes. I never view another 60 Minutes piece without questioning their motivations, and will always wonder how a reputable program like 60 Minutes is in a growing trend in the media to sacrifice reliable, factual information in favor of ratings and sensationalism. ■

Reta Nashikhu,
US citizen,
New York, USA.

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Creature feature



Mandrill
(Mandrillus sphinx)

Home: Africa: forest of Cameroon, Gabon

Habits: Lives in troops of 20 to 50 animals, led and protected by one or more old males. Eats nuts, fruit, leaves, insects and other small animals. Sleeps in trees.

Claim to fame: Male (shown above) has long snout marked with deep, often colorful, ridges. Female has less pronounced ridges and facial coloration, and is only about half as big

SOURCE: Detroit Free Press, "Macmillan Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia," Research by NANCY ROSS-FLANIGAN

VIDEOVIEW

By Jay Bobbin

(Ratings for each film begin with an "asterisk" rating — one meaning "poor," four meaning "excellent" — followed by the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and then by a family-viewing guide, the key for which appears below.)

STARTING THIS WEEK: "THELMA AND LOUISE" (MGM/UA, \$94.99): One of last summer's most-discussed films, director Ridley Scott's vivid "road movie" casts Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis as traveling companions with good reasons to leave their respective pasts behind... but that doesn't mean those pasts won't try to follow them, resulting in a controversial outcome. Harvey Keitel and Brad Pitt also are featured. *** (R: AS, P, V)

"DYING YOUNG" (Fox, \$94.98): Julia Roberts reunited with "Flatliners" director Joel Schumacher for this romantic, but gloomy drama about a wealthy and seriously ill young man (Campbell Scott) who falls for his new private nurse (Roberts)... and vice versa, much to her emotional confusion. Scott's mother, the late Colleen Dewhurst, and David ("Falcon Crest") Selby also appear. ** (R: AS, P)

"BILL & TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY" (Orion, \$92.98): Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter return as the "totally excellent dudes" whose offbeat manner of speech tends to provide lots of humor. That certainly is handy when they're brought face-to-face with Satan ("Die Hard 2's" William Sadler), while lifelike robots take their places in the real world. Comedian George Carlin also shows up. *** (PG: AS, P, V)

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLUF E
HAIK K
ALFFEB
DUNBOA

And I'm still single!

SHE WAS FIT AS A FIDDLE, BUT COULDN'T GET THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Answer: FLUTE KANG BATTLE ABNOUO

Get the — A — BEAT! (Now)

She was fit as a fiddle, but couldn't get this!

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
2-7
February

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — For the Sake of Children.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — "Switched at Birth": A drama based on the true story of the two Florida girls who somehow were switched at a hospital nursery and raised for a decade by the wrong biological parents.



Switched at Birth on on Saturday at 10:20

SUNDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest: Barbara finds a new boyfriend and she introduces him to her dad, but unfortunately, she soon finds out that he is going out with another girl.
9:10 — Equinox: "The winning streak": This program sheds light on the issue of how people become athletes, with emphasis on the East German's approach.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Continuation of Switched at Birth drama series.

MONDAY

8:30 — Hey Dad: Martin's secretary, Betty, never runs out of ideas to force her employer to give her a raise.
9:10 — Capital City: Leonard asks one of his employees to follow up on a client's wish to liquidate his Dutch gilder assets, but the transaction does not go through because of a colleague's fault.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — The Elites: The team goes to the South Pacific to rescue a threatened island. Later, they work on stopping a leaking oil tanker and finally they prevent a fight between mill owners and demonstrators, who want to preserve nature.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Evening Shade: The coach becomes a Western movie star.
9:10 — Colour in the Creek: Alec and Robbie, hypnotized by Mr. Ekman, snap out of it and quickly leave the magic place with a strong belief in what they saw and experienced.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — G.B.H. "Only Here on a Message": Michael Murray is popular, powerful, and corrupt. He is the local politician who knows what it's like to be hated.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Teech: Find out who the winner is in the elections for president.

FRENCH PROGRAMS

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — A documentary program.

DI MANCHE

5:30 — Les badaboks. A puppet show for children.
5:45 — Géoscope. A documentary program.
6:10 — L'école des fans. A program in which children sing the songs of their favourite singers.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical music program.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons: The doctor tells Mr. Simpson that he has only 24 hours to live because of food poisoning.
9:10 — NBA basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the week: "On Thin Ice": The film tells the story of Tai Babilonia and her partner Randy Gardner who joins the celebrity.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Lenny: A man is killed in an accident and Lenny thinks that his brother Eddie is the killer. Eddie is frightened and escapes along with his father.
9:10 — Derrick: A detective series.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Chancer. "Possessions": Robert Douglas throws a birthday party for his son Jamc who settles back at home, and Robert's son-in-law admits to his wife that he was having an affair with a girl from the village.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about life in the seas.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Bouli. A cartoon series for children.
6:15 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. A series about two doctors.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. A variety program with Jacques Martin.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Azimuts. A documentary program.

JEUDI

6:00 — Lionmap. A documentary program.
5:30 — Maguy. A comedy series about a woman named Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — International circus.

VENREDI

5:30 — Le Gorille.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program on science.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Not a good week for rushing into romantic or business commitment. Keep your personal affairs private. Listen and learn at work. Gift-giving puts you in the honour roll.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Entering into a financial agreement could be like playing with fire! Go slow. You need to be very careful where romance is concerned. A child shares a special moment with you.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): You will probably accomplish more if you work on deadline. Postpone a business lunch to complete a "top priority" project. Mate may want to go out this weekend. Relax at home instead.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Take charge of a financial or employment matter. A task that sounds difficult will be a breeze! Generosity puts you in favour with influential people. Return phone calls promptly.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Self-control is the name of the game, especially when dealing with your mate. Learn to delegate more authority. A social affair could lead to new business contacts. Good financial news is likely.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): A great week for business and finance. Avoid asking too many favours of influential people. Bring your bank records up-to-date. You decide to visit old friends. Relax and enjoy yourself.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Progress may not come easily this week. The emphasis is on not shaking the foundations; do what you can without making waves. Keeping a low profile helps you observe and learn. Splurge this week!

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Travel enjoys highly favourable influences. Trust your powers of observation. Prominent people will be impressed by your innovative thinking. Make inquiries. You will get fascinating answers.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): You could be drawn into a web of deception if you are not careful. Do your own research behind the scenes. A new career venture hits a snag — hold back. Distinct contacts prove fortuitous.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Glad tidings and good fortune are part of the picture! Attention to detail pays off in meaningful ways. Devote more time to domestic affairs. You have access to the people who wield power!

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Pay more attention to what people behind the scenes are telling you. Use any inside information you obtain judiciously. Do not neglect loved ones when travelling; call home on a regular basis.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Improve your technological skills. A fax machine could save you both time and money. A telephone call from an old school friend proves enlightening. Remember to repay favours as soon as possible.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are a lot more complex than they appear on the surface. Although wildly impatient with slow movers and thinkers, they often have trouble making decisions. They will be happiest in business for themselves, far away from negative or dictatorial people.

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Would You Believe?

Hawaii requires new-comers to place their dogs and cats in a 120-day quarantine if they're arriving from any place that has rabies cases. Officials say Hawaii is the only rabies-free state in the nation.

Hikers in Austrian mountains recently found the body of a man who lived 4,000 years ago.

Drinking milk actually irritates an ulcer, it doesn't help it.

A new federal study found that more than half of the United States' teenagers drink alcohol. More than a third said they'd had more than five drinks on at least one occasion.

The rock group Duran Duran took its name from a character in the 1988 Jane Fonda film called "Barbarella."

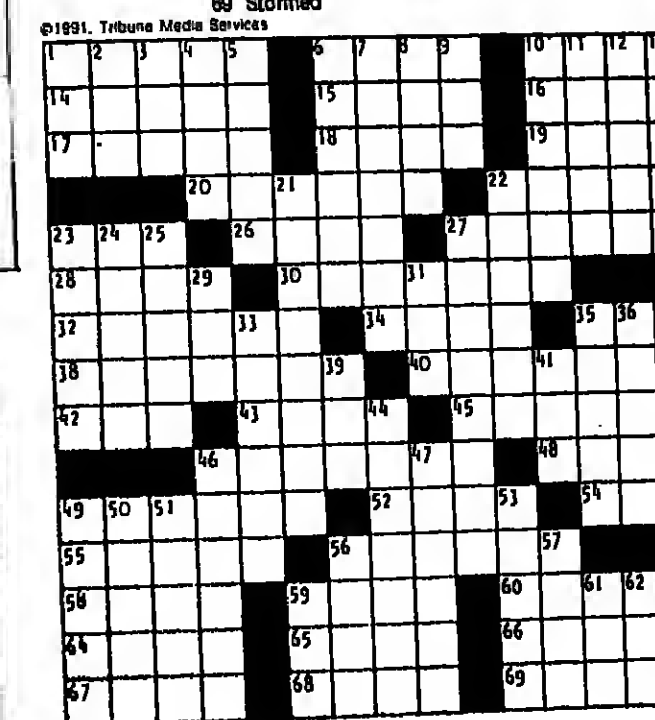
Solution



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Sticks in the mud
6 Poole farm of address
10 Canvases
14 Dingbat
15 River in Spain
16 Volinity
17 Fleahy headress
18 German daniel
19 Greasy areas
20 Artificial
22 Violent guest
23 Baby's food
20 Pipe
27 Soars
28 Not cars —
30 Gibed at
32 Able
34 Achesson or Ruak
35 Take to court

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4 To be: Fr.
5 Pollary fragment
6 Tuocon's state: abbr.
9 My Fr.
10 Colonies
11 Nymph, in Greek
12 Certain
13 Endures
21 Source of light and heat
22 Certain mineral
23 Elemental
24 Iafahan man
25 Opera voice
27 Cheer
28 Greek letter
31 Goddess: Lat.
33 Wading birds
35 Organization
36 Accepted practice
37 German industrial center
38 Weight
41 Cheer
44 Mexican dish
46 Equivocate
47 Artistry
49 Hogties
50 Slip by
51 Ponderous
53 Passover event
56 Recognition
58 Vessel
61 Stalin
62 Versa
63 Sparks or Rorem



JOE

Conventions addicts

MANY PLAYERS keep on accusing a certain group of players of being convention addicts or slaves to the system and even of replacing common sense with rigid rules. My answer is brief and supported with examples:
• Conventions are the same as any other tools. You have to perfect them, otherwise they work against you, and you should not abuse them, they will serve you if you use them the proper way.
• Following own system is a must for partnership preservation and discipline is an important factor, treatments and judgements are a result of the concluded inferences.
• Common sense does not contradict with the system's rules, actually it supports it and integrates with it to form a comprehensive style dependent on both of them.

WEST
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NORTH
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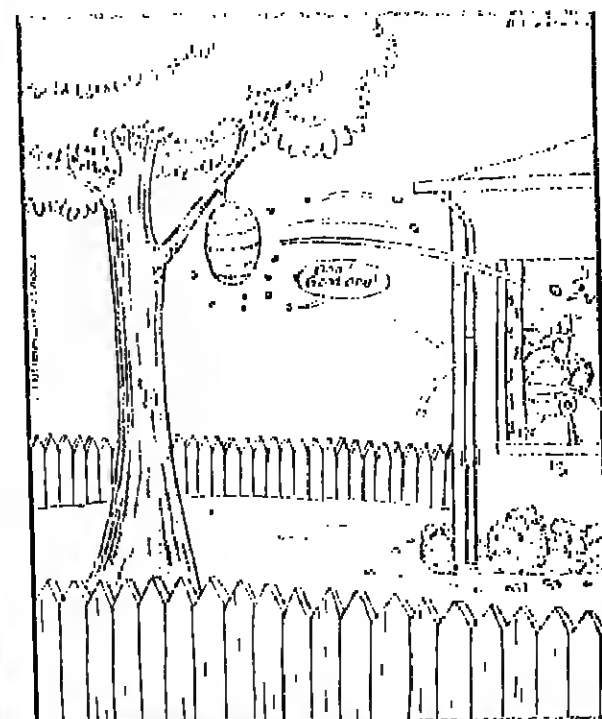
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4S
5S

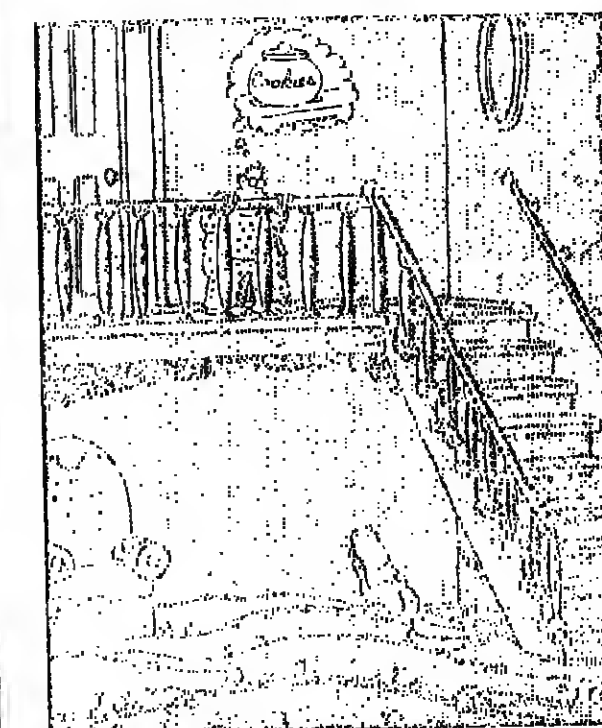
East plays Lebanonli convention, a complete set of bids that almost cover any hand after 1N opening and a two level intervention from the direct position.
According to the convention mechanism, 3N shows game values, no stopper in the opponent suit and no four cards of the unbid major (S). East players with sensible common sense, judged the hand as a game forcing one and treated it accordingly to score a deserved top.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



For many weeks, the two species had lived in mutual tolerance of one another. And then, without provocation, the homies began throwing rocks at Ned's house.



The nightly cries of Todd's stomach vs. Todd's Imagination



Stumpy didn't know how he got in this situation, but with the whole town watching, he knew he'd have to play it out.